

THE SINKING OF THE ALVA

STORY OF CAPTAIN COLEMAN OF THE
DIMOCK.

BELL TOO LATE TO AVOID THE COLLISION

RAISED IF POSSIBLE.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

The steamship H. F. Dimock, this morning visited the Lighthouse Board and made a report for the issue of a notice to mariners of the danger from the sunken yacht *Alva*. The *Alva* lies off the north point of Pollock Rip. At low water, one-quarter west, in four and one-half fathoms, the water, three-quarters of a mile from Pollock Rip, is blue bell buoy. Her masts and smokestack show and at low water her rail is nearly awharf. She lies broadside across the channel. Captain Coleman is a young man with more of the gentleman of leisure than the sea captain in his appearance, and this morning gave his statement of how the *Alva* happened to run down Mr. Vanderbilt's yacht. He said:

It was exceedingly foggy Sunday morning, and at 4 o'clock we were approaching the Shoals which looked to the fog, had to be done with caution. Lookouts were posted, and were straining their eyes in every direction, while our whistle was being continually sounded. We were very careful to keep right in the regular channel and were only going at half-speed. Our progress was little more than drifting, at 4 o'clock and then we stopped and made observations before we went on.

the Wilshire building, and were feeling our way for Pollock's Rip Blue bell buoy. When I had begun to think we were pretty near it we heard the tinkling of a yacht's bell, and as soon as the faint ring reached us the lookout saw the dim outlines of a vessel dead ahead of us. He shouted and immediately we veered off and promptly reversed the engines full speed, but a collision was unavoidable and we crashed into the port bow and knocked a hole in her, partly below the waterline. We narrowly escaped striking her right amidships. The Dimock backed off and steered around away from the Alva. When we were backing clear of the yacht, our bow was jammed up against her chainplate, and two of our bow plates were stove in. The damage is slight though. We lay to and picked up every one aboard, provided those with clothes who had no opportunity

day, thinking there might possibly be something more we could do. The steam yacht is not very badly damaged, her only injury being the water made by our bows which, being below the waterline, caused her to fill. I think she can be easily raised and repaired at comparatively small cost. She was anchored at the worst place that could have been chosen in the vicinity. She lay broadside across the channel and very close to the Shoals."

"I was on deck at the time of the collision. The fog was so dense that we could not see more than one quarter of the ship's length. Mr. Baker and Mr. Smith, the first and second mates of the Dimock, and I were all standing right in the eyes of her. I was on the starboard side. Nobody could have heard the bell of the Albatross."

at the same time. Near us were Mr. Trask, Mr. Palmer and two others. The rest of the passengers were scattered about aft. Almost simultaneously with the sound of the bell, the dark mass of the Alva loomed up before us.

with the tide which runs there in the Folloch
ship, we had a tremendous headway. We were
bow until just before the crash came.
One wheel was hard-a-tarboard, or we should
have struck the Alva amidstships, as some of
papers say we did; as it was, we struck just for
ward of the mainmast. It came as a fall

long time before we got clear. Of course, our engine being reversed all this time we finally overcame the current and backed away. We were probably not half a minute in collision, but during that time William K. Vanderbilt and Mr. Dixon had time to get out of the car and

Alva's boats were lowered with commendable rapidity and discipline. The port cutter got away first. The Alva's crew all got aboard the Damock in safety with the exception of a Swede, who got rattled and took a life-preserver into the

"The party from the Alva were destitute of clothing," Mr. Webb had put on some tennies and a pair of socks, and a light robe, but the rest had only their night dresses. Vanderbilt climbed aboard in pajamas. Mr. Vanderbilt came at once to my cabin and, after donning some clothes, stood looking through the porthole at the Alva. He remarked that he did not think she would sink. She had water-tight compartments. But almost as he spoke the bow of the Alva began to settle. Then she settled back in the water and listed, finally going down

We proceeded on our course. Captain Coleman and the officers of the ship Dimock did everything possible under the circumstances and they deserve a great deal of praise. For my part, I think it was the grandest thing I ever saw. The sinking of the great vessel, I shall never forget it.

Vineyard Haven, Mass., July 25. The Boston Towboat Company's agent here has received orders to proceed to the wrecked yacht Alva, at Pollock Bluff, with a steaming tug, a winchman, lighters and

Newport, July 25.—W. K. Vanderbilt arrived here at 12:20 o'clock to-day, accompanied by his guests on the unfortunate yachting excursion. At the depot he had nothing to say to reporters and at once took his own vehicle for his house.

WILL ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE YACHT.
The Merritt Wrecking Company's tug Rescue left here at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon for the scene of the wreck of the yacht Alva. A diver was sent

and see what is necessary to be done to raise her. At the office of the Metropolitan Steamship Company yesterday no further information regarding the unfortunate collision had been received. The H. F. Dimock, it was said, would be laid off at Boston for

be taken by one of the three extra steamers of the line. H. F. Dimock, the manager of the line, is out of town.

A RACE TROUBLE REPAIRED AT IRMO, S. C.
Columbia, S. C., July 25. - Saturday evening Coosa-

A posse scoured the country, and yesterday Kinard was arrested and brought before Mrs. Addison, who identified him as her assailant. The negroes around Irmo are greatly excited over the affair, and are gath-

the white men. This morning Lewis Brown, a negro, became insolent and got into a fight with S. K. Bennknight, who shot Brown through the stomach, and he will probably die. This shooting still further incensed the negroes, and there was talk of rescuing the prisoners.

ing at Irmo, under arms, and the negroes are also out in force. Kinard had a preliminary hearing this morning, and was sent to Lexington jail under guard.